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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities of the 9th Tank Div in the Riesa - Zeithain -

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Muehlberg Area

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 15 September 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (No. & Type)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At 1630 on 29 July 1955, between 12 and 15 trucks and 1 crane truck were parked in the wooded section east of the Kreinitz-Muehlberg road, approximately 7.5 km north of Kreinitz. The road and the river-side meadows were heavily rutted by full-track vehicles. Two signboards at [redacted] wood pointed to a river-crossing point on the Elbe. A motor boat was moored at a pier on the east bank. Apparently a tank unit had crossed the river on ferries. A KVP engineer unit, which carried out exercises with two ferries at that time, was probably involved in this [redacted]. At the bank, a pneumatic car [redacted] On 30 July, a unit, presumably engineer, in Oschatz moved from Riesa in the direction of Grossenhain. This unit included 4 trucks each towing an AAA gun and carried 6 to 8 EM with red-bordered black epaulets, 6 to 8 trucks carrying TM with red-bordered black epaulets, 3 repair-shop trucks, 2 trucks each towing a 85-mm AAA gun and carrying 10 to 12 EM, 1 rocket launcher, 1 sedan, 1 jeep, 4 armored personnel carriers, 4 four-wheel armored personnel carriers. On 3 August, 2 four-wheel armored personnel carriers each carrying 1 machine gun, 1 officer and 5 EM with black-bordered red epaulets were seen west of the Kreinitz - Muehlberg road. At approximately 0900, 3 side-car motor vehicles arrived from the direction of Grossenhain. Groups of KVP soldiers carried out rowing exercises with pontoons. At approximately 1500 on 4 August, 2 motor boats were moored at the east bank of the Elbe River.
2. At 2000 on 5 August, 22 to 25 trucks arrived from the direction of Grossenhain via Gohlis at Muehlberg pioneer training grounds. The trucks carried TMP-steel pontoons and completed sections of the bridge superstructure supported by [redacted] This column included also 5 trucks carrying timber gratings, 2 trucks each towing a motor boat, 5 trucks each carrying 20 EM with black-bordered black epaulets, 1 repair-shop truck and 1 field kitchen.
3. At 1700 on 8 August, a KVP engineer unit, including 12 3-axle trucks loaded with TMP steel pontoons, steel girders and planks, 5 empty trucks, and 1 crane truck, was seen. A four-section pontoon ferry was moored in the middle of the river. Several high-ranking officers and KVP engineer soldiers were seen on the ferry.

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[redacted] amphibious car, 1 T-34/85 and 1 JSU without gun carrying 12 - 15 EM with red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen parked.

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4. The vehicles noticed on 29 July in the wooded section east of the Kreinitz - Muehlberg road had left, but another unit had assembled in the wooded section west of Jacobsthal.
5. At approximately 0730 on 8 August, a column was seen which included 25 - 30 four-wheel armored personnel carriers, 20 sidecar motor cycles, 8 - 10 trucks carrying fuel containers, 2 trucks each towing a field kitchen, 2 tank trucks, 3 radio trucks and 1 ambulance. Nine canvas-covered T-34/85 and approximately 40 EM with red-bordered black epaulets remained in the wooded section.
6. On 10 August, the KVP engineer unit was still observed in the training area. At approximately 1030, the four-section pontoon ferry was again noticed on the Elbe River. The crossing of trucks was practiced with a ferry consisting of 8 pontoons pushed by 2 motor boats. At Kreinitz, 1 US-Ford GPA amphibious car [redacted] carried 1 major and two EM wearing black-bordered black epaulets.
7. At approximately 0330 on 10 August, 15 to 20 T-54s arrived from Oschatz at Zeithain training grounds.

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Comment. This information on training activities in the Riesa - Muehlberg area confirms previous reports.

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[redacted] Additional reports indicate that the training activities on the Muehlberg engineer training grounds involved units of the 9th Tank Div., a KVP engineer unit and presumably also engineer units of the 8th Gds. Mecz Div., of the 11th Gds. Tank Div. and/or of the u/i engineer regiment of the First Gds. Mecz Army. These units probably practiced in rotation.

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